

## Australia National Statement – Seoul Nuclear Security Summit

The threat of nuclear terrorism is all too real and one the world cannot afford to ignore or underestimate. Any terrorist use of nuclear materials would have catastrophic consequences and redefine the global security landscape. A serious global threat requires a serious global response – international cooperation is critical.

Australian action on nuclear security, safety, non-proliferation and disarmament has consistently focussed on results:

- We are leaders in the development and implementation of strengthened nuclear safeguards.
- We supported International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) and United Nations (UN) initiatives for nuclear safety in the aftermath of the Fukushima accident.
- Following on from the independent International Commission on Nuclear Non-Proliferation and Disarmament - co-chaired by Australia and Japan - we established, with Japan, the Non-Proliferation and Disarmament Initiative (NPDI) to progress the outcomes of the 2010 Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty Review Conference.

Not least, Australia has delivered on each of our commitments made at the Washington Summit. Australia is delighted to announce that we have ratified the International Convention on the Suppression of Acts of Nuclear Terrorism.

Australia has matched international action with domestic action. We are at the forefront of using low-enriched uranium technology to produce medical isotopes, thereby removing any requirement for Australia to hold highly-enriched uranium for this purpose. We are leading the development of nuclear forensic science and technologies to improve detection of illicit nuclear materials. As a member of the Board of Governors of the IAEA, we will continue to uphold and promote nuclear security standards.

Australia recognises the significance for the Asia-Pacific region the prospect of increasing use of civil nuclear energy. We will continue to play a strong leadership role in ensuring nuclear security in the Asia-Pacific. That is why we are working to achieve the adoption of international instruments on nuclear security.

As part of Australia's contribution to global nuclear security, in November this year we will host an IAEA nuclear security workshop in Sydney to build further regional collaboration.

In 2013, in keeping with another of our Washington Summit commitments, Australia will welcome an independent IAEA review of security arrangements at our nuclear science facility and only reactor at Lucas Heights, Sydney.

We believe the IAEA plays an essential role in nuclear security and encourage states to work with the Agency to evaluate and improve nuclear security.

As a major supplier of uranium, Australia naturally takes its nuclear security, safeguards and safety obligations seriously. We will continue to conclude rigorous bilateral safeguards agreements, including tight security provisions, with any country to which we sell uranium.

Australia looks forward to participating at the next summit in the Netherlands in 2014, but we need to agree measures to sustain these efforts and make a focus on nuclear security a permanent feature of what we do. We need to consider the following three things:

1. Ways to further empower the IAEA to continue its important work beyond 2014.
2. Establishment of an accountability framework on nuclear security that builds confidence between nations beyond 2014. This might include regular peer reviews of domestic nuclear security arrangements to ensure ongoing transparency.
3. Mechanisms to foster co-operation between governments, industry and Non-Government Organisations. There are major corporations who play a role in the nuclear industry and to the extent that we can further collaboration with them, then we would further our ambitions for nuclear security.